



NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 36

Release Date: August 24, 2010

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Judicial Council Releases Annual Court Statistics Report

Trial Court Caseload Increases to Over 10 Million Filings

San Francisco— Statewide filings in the California superior courts recently topped 10 million, resulting in a net increase of 7 percent from last year and a 20 percent increase over the past decade, according to the Judicial Council's *2010 Court Statistics Report (CSR)*.

The *CSR* provides detailed statewide caseload data for fiscal year 2008–2009 and 10-year trend data on a wide range of court business in the Supreme Court of California, the Courts of Appeal, and the superior courts in the state's 58 counties. Comprehensive county-level data for the most recent fiscal year are published in the online version of the report, along with a summary of the major filings trends, on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/3_stats.htm.

Article VI, section 6 of the California Constitution requires the Judicial Council to survey the condition of business in the state courts and to report and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. A snapshot of the court caseload data in the *CSR* follows.

Supreme Court*

- The Supreme Court issued 116 written opinions in fiscal year 2008–2009.
- Filings totaled 9,274, and dispositions totaled 9,513.
- Automatic appeals arising out of judgments of death totaled 24 cases, and dispositions of automatic appeals numbered 25.
- Supreme Court ordered 13 Court of Appeal opinions depublished in this fiscal year.

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Courts of Appeal

- Filings for the state's six Courts of Appeal totaled 24,048 (15,635 notices of appeal and 8,413 original proceedings).
- Dispositions in the Courts of Appeal totaled 24,491. Of these dispositions, 15,915 were appeals, and 8,576 were original proceedings.
- Dispositions of appeals by written opinion totaled 10,818, and appeals disposed of without written opinion totaled 5,097. Dispositions of original proceedings by written opinion totaled 659, and original proceedings disposed of without written opinion totaled 7,917.
- Statewide, 9 percent of Court of Appeal majority opinions were published.

Superior Courts

Superior court case filings across all case categories totaled 10,255,360, and dispositions totaled 8,733,177. Within these aggregate numbers, the following totals were recorded:

- Civil filings totaled 1,731,135, and civil dispositions totaled 1,513,146.
- Criminal filings totaled 8,356,478, and criminal dispositions totaled 7,072,372.
- Juvenile filings totaled 137,960, and juvenile dispositions totaled 121,484.
- Family filings totaled 458,814, and family dispositions totaled 389,811.

For a descriptive analysis of trial court caseload contained in this year's CSR, please see DataPoints, online www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/datapoints10.pdf.

** Since 1996, the California Supreme Court has issued workload statistics using a reporting period of September 1 through August 31 of the following year. This time frame best corresponds to the filing of the Supreme Court's opinions. To view the court's September 1, 2008—August 31, 2009 annual statistics please see <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/presscenter/newsreleases/NR49-09.PDF>. The Supreme Court will issue its annual statistics for September 1, 2009—August 31, 2010 in early September.*

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.